

Regularisation of services of contract employees

102. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various public sector undertakings (PSUs) under his Ministry have regularised the services of several contract employees;

(b) if so, the number of such contract employees regularised as on 15th June, 2000 PSU-wise;

(c) the procedure adopted in regularisation of their services by different PSUs and whether any fresh examinations were taken by these PSUs; and

(d) the broad features of rules adopted/approved by the Boards of these PSUs in regularisation of contract employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) Oil Companies in the Public Sector have regularised/ absorbed about 2400 contract workers since 1995 as per job requirements or in pursuance of the directions of Courts. They do not have any separate procedure or specific rule for absorption/ regularisation of contract employees.

The Supreme Court of India in the Air India Statutory Corporation Limited Vs. United Labour Union and others case have held that once a Notification prohibiting employment of contract labour in an activity is issued under Section 10 of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, the contract labour engaged in that activity become the direct employees of the concerned establishments. After this judgement, a few cases have been instituted in various Courts of Law by the contract labour and their Unions at various units/establishments. These cases are pending before the Courts. Issues pertaining to engagement and absorption of contract labour arising out of Supreme Court judgement was taken up by the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) on behalf of the PSUs. The same has been admitted and referred to a larger Bench of the Supreme Court. Thus, the entire matter of regulation of contract labour has become subjudice.

Contract employees in PSUs

103. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which Government propose to streamline the PSUs in

[24th July, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

matter relating to contract employees and their grievances, specially in Engineers India Ltd. (EIL);

(b) whether any effort has been made to redress the grievances of contract employees;

(c) if so, the details of action taken so far;

(d) whether the problems put forward by the Association of EIL Contract Employees have been considered in positive direction; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) Oil Sector PSUs are under obligation to comply with the applicable provisions of various labour laws including the contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970.

As far as Engineers India Limited (EIL) is concerned, the company is giving opportunity to contract employees in staff cadre for being considered against regular vacancies as and when these arise. For contract engineers, the Board of Directors of EIL have amended the recruitment rules for officers to provide *inter alia* that 50% of the vacancies/requirement of the management trainees arising from 2001 onwards will be filled on an annual basis from contract engineers.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Sanctioned petrol pump and gas agencies in Bihar

†104. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the locations sanctioned for the petrol pump and gas agencies in Bihar, district-wise;

(b) the list of advertised locations out of them along with the date of advertisement;

(c) whether these locations have been allotted;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.